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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of
Hill, et al. :
Application No. 10/600,037 :
Filed: 20 June, 2003 :
Attorney Docket No. TEJ/00004 :

ON PETITION

This is a decision on the petition under ¶(a) of 37 C.F.R. §1.47, filed on 20 June, 2003.

The Office regrets the delay in addressing this matter, but it was received in the Office of Petitions only at this writing.

The petition is **DISMISSED**.

NOTES:

- (1) Any reply must include a renewed petition (and fee) must include a petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.47 and must be submitted within two (2) months from the mail date of this decision. Extensions of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) are permitted. The reconsideration request should include a cover letter entitled "Petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.47";
- (2) Thereafter, there will be no further reconsideration of this matter.

BACKGROUND

The record indicates:

- the application was filed on 20 June, 2003, without, *inter alia*, a fully executed oath or declaration; and
- contemporaneously with the filing of the application and, therefore, prior to the mailing of a Notice to File Missing Parts, Petitioner filed the instant petition;
- the 20 June, 2003, petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.47, (filed with, *inter alia*, an oath/declaration signed by named inventors Hill, Simpson and Hodge, but without the signature of Thomas Michael Deaton (Mr. Deaton), and narrative by Petitioner William B. Patterson (Reg. No. 34,102) and Peter L. Brewer (Reg. No. 41,636) and named co-inventor and assignee president Hill and additional documentation evidencing that the entire application was transmitted to the non-signing inventor at his last known addresses, but that he failed to respond positively to the request that he sign the declaration or in fact sign said declaration.

Notably, the petition fails to state the last known address of the non-signing inventor.

ANALYSIS

The regulations at 37 C.F.R. §1.47 provide in pertinent part:

§ 1.47 Filing when an inventor refuses to sign or cannot be reached.

(a) If a joint inventor refuses to join in an application for patent or cannot be found or reached after diligent effort, the application may be made by the other inventor on behalf of himself or herself and the nonsigning inventor. The oath or declaration in such an application must be accompanied by a petition including proof of the pertinent facts, the fee set forth in § 1.17(h), and the last known address of the nonsigning inventor. The nonsigning inventor may subsequently join in the application by filing an oath or declaration complying with §1.63.

* * *

The regulations at 37 C.F.R. §1.63 provide in pertinent part:

§1.63 Oath or declaration.

(b) In addition to meeting the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section, the oath or declaration must also:

- (1) Identify the application to which it is directed;
- (2) State that the person making the oath or declaration has reviewed and understands the contents of the application, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to in the oath or declaration; and
- (3) State that the person making the oath or declaration acknowledges the duty to disclose to the Office all information known to the person to be material to patentability as defined in § 1.56.

Thus, not only must copy of the entire application must be sent to the last known address of the non-signing inventor (or the estate representative) with a request that he/she sign the declaration for the patent application--and evidence of that transmittal submitted (a reasonable effort must be made to ascertain a current or last known address)—but also the petition must state over the signature and registration number of the Petitioner the last know address (and, if appropriate, evidence of the due diligence effort ascertaining same).

Alternatively, an oath or declaration for the patent application in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.63 and 1.64 must be presented.

The declaration must set forth the inventor's residence, citizenship and post office address. An oath or declaration in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.63 and 1.64 signed by the Rule 1.47 applicant is required.¹

CONCLUSION

Therefore, the instant petition must be and hereby is dismissed.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By mail: Commissioner for Patents²
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By FAX: (703) 872-9306 (IFW Formal Filings)
ATTN.: Office of Petitions

¹ See: MPEP 409.03(b).

² To determine the appropriate addresses for other subject-specific correspondence, refer to the USPTO Web site at www.uspto.gov.

By hand: Mail Stop: Petition
Customer Service Window
Lobby/Room 1B03
Crystal Plaza Two
220 20th Street S.
Arlington, VA 22202

Telephone inquiries regarding this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3214.



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Office of Petitions